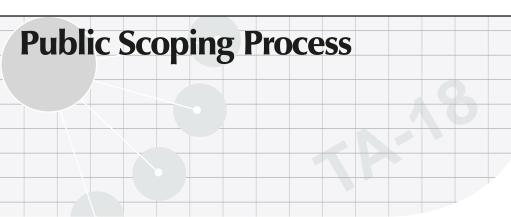
APPENDIX I



APPENDIX I PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS

I.1 SCOPING PROCESS DESCRIPTION

As a preliminary step in the development of an environmental impact statement (EIS), regulations established by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1501.7) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) require "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." The purpose of this scoping process is: (1) to inform the public about a proposed action and the alternatives being considered, and (2) to identify and/or clarify

issues that are relevant to the EIS by soliciting public

comments.

On May 2, 2000, The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a separately-organized agency within DOE, published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register announcing its intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Relocation of Technical Area 18 Capabilities and Materials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. During the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, there are opportunities for public involvement (see **Figure I–1**). The Notice of Intent listed the issues initially identified by DOE for evaluation in the EIS. Public citizens, civic leaders, and other interested parties were invited to comment on these issues and to suggest additional issues that should be considered in the EIS. The Notice of Intent informed the public that comments on the proposed action could be communicated via U.S. mail, a special DOE web site on the internet, a toll-free phone line, a toll-free fax line, or in person at public meetings to be held near the alternative relocation sites.

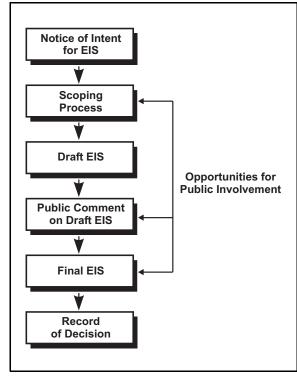


Figure I-1 NEPA Process

Public meetings were held near each of the four alternative relocation sites: (1) Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico (SNL/NM), on May 18, 2000, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; (2) Nevada Test Site (NTS), on May 23, 2000, in North Las Vegas, Nevada; (3) Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W), on May 25, 2000, in Idaho Falls, Idaho; and (4) Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), on May 30, 2000, in Española, New Mexico (see **Figure I–2**).

Due to the Cerro Grande Fire in the Los Alamos, New Mexico area, the LANL public scoping meeting originally scheduled for May 17, 2000, in Los Alamos was rescheduled to May 30, 2000, in Española, New Mexico.

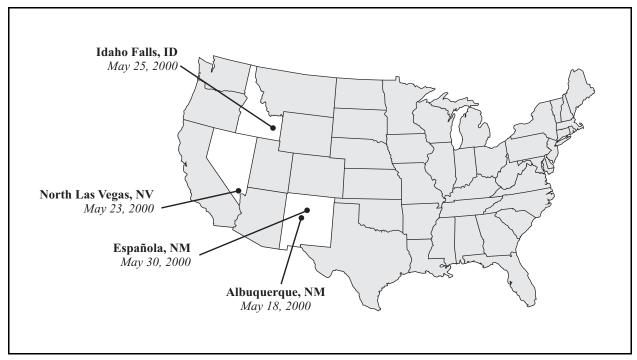


Figure I-2 Public Scoping Meeting Locations and Dates

As a result of previous experience and positive responses from attendees of other DOE NEPA public meetings and hearings, DOE chose an interactive format for the scoping meetings. Each meeting began with a presentation by a DOE representative who explained the proposed Technical Area 18 (TA-18) relocation plan. Afterwards, the floor was opened to questions, comments, and concerns from the audience. DOE representatives were available to respond to questions and comments as needed. The proceedings and formal comments raised at each meeting were recorded verbatim, and a transcript for each meeting was produced. The public was also encouraged to submit written or verbal comments, during the meetings or to submit comments via letters, the DOE internet web site, toll-free phone line, or toll-free fax line, until the end of the scoping period. Due to the rescheduling of the LANL public meeting, necessitated by the Cerro Grande Fire, the end of the scoping period was extended from June 1, 2000 to June 15, 2000. Comments received after June 15, 2000 were considered and included to the extent practicable.

It should be noted that, for EIS public scoping purposes, a comment is defined as a single opinion concerning a specific issue. An individual commentor's public statement may contain several such comments. Most of the verbal and written public statements submitted during the EIS scoping period contained multiple comments on various specific issues. These issues are summarized in the following section.

I.2 SCOPING PROCESS RESULTS

Nearly 400 comments were received from citizens, interested groups, and Federal, state, and local officials during the public scoping period, including approximately 50 verbal comments made during the public meetings. The remainder of the comments (336) were submitted at the public meetings in written form, or were submitted via mail, internet, fax, or phone over the entire scoping period. Some commentors who spoke at the public meetings also prepared written statements that were later submitted during or after the meetings. Where this occurred, each comment provided by an individual commentor in both verbal and written form was counted as a single comment. It should be noted that a single commentor provided more than 200 of the total scoping comments that were received during the public scoping period.

Many of the verbal and written comments received during the public scoping period identified the need for DOE to describe in detail the existing TA-18 facilities and processes, as well as the specific requirements associated with the alternatives for fulfilling the proposed action. In particular, comments addressed the suitability of other sites to perform TA-18 operations, the design of any facilities to be constructed or modified, construction and operation timelines, and controls to limit releases to the environment.

A significant number of comments also expressed concern about the costs associated with operating TA-18 or relocating these operating capabilities and materials elsewhere. These comments suggested that detailed cost analyses be conducted to analyze the construction, operation, security, and transportation needs of the various alternatives.

Many comments were expressed about the special nuclear materials (SNM) needed to support, and the waste streams resulting from, TA-18 activities. Commentors requested clarification about the amount of SNM that would be required under each alternative, the manner and route of its transport, and the availability of suitable shipping containers. Waste management concerns expressed by commentors included the need to identify the types and volumes of waste generated by the proposed action, the facilities available at each site to treat, store and/or dispose of these wastes, transportation requirements, and compatibility of managing these wastes with state and Federal regulations.

Several commentors expressed concern about environmental, health, and safety risks associated with TA-18 activities. DOE representatives were urged to thoroughly evaluate the potential consequences of the proposed action on local wildlife, water resources, and the health and safety of area residents, and to address the Cerro Grande Fire at LANL in the EIS. Comments also suggested that the EIS quantify all radionuclide and chemical emissions resulting from the proposed action. Concerns also were raised about the safety and security of existing TA-18 facilities, and how safety and security would be addressed at each of the proposed relocation sites. Commentors also expressed favor or opposition to a relocation alternative, reasons for which included security, cost, and workforce advantages.

Public comments and materials submitted during the scoping period were logged and placed in the Administrative Record of this EIS.

I.3 COMMENT DISPOSITION AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Comments received during the scoping period were systematically reviewed by DOE. Where possible, comments on similar or related topics were grouped under comment issue categories as a means of summarizing the comments. The comment issue categories were used to identify specific issues of public concern. After the issues were identified, they were evaluated to determine whether they fell within or outside the scope of the EIS. Some issues were found to be already "in scope," and that they were among the EIS issues initially identified by DOE for inclusion in the EIS. **Table I–1** lists these issues along with where these issues are addressed in the EIS.

As a result of the public scoping process, one additional issue, consideration of an alternative to upgrade the existing TA-18 facilities at LANL, and clarification of the requirements for such an alternative, was added to the scope of the *TA-18 Relocation EIS* (see **Table I–2**).

During the scoping process, DOE received many comments that were judged to be beyond the scope of the *TA-18 Relocation EIS*. The purpose and scope of the *TA-18 Relocation EIS* are only to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation of TA-18 activities. Comments judged to be beyond the scope of the EIS included: (1) national security matters, (2) cost of TA-18 operations, (3) opposition to TA-18 activities, and (4) weapons development activities. These issues are not addressed in the EIS.

Table I-1 Issues Included In the EIS (In Scope)

1 able 1–1 Issues included in the E1S (in Scope)				
Issues	Number of Comments	EIS References		
General history of TA-18 and its missions, and the continued importance of current TA-18 operations to national security	15	Section 1.1 and Chapter 3		
NNSA's responsibilities under DOE with respect to the proposed action and alternatives	2	Section 1.1.1		
Purpose, need, and duration for relocating TA-18 activities	5	Chapter 2 and Section 3.2.1		
Unclassified description of the radioactive and non-radioactive materials to be used and the types of experiments to be conducted at the proposed facility, including critical assembly experiments, any uses of cladding, cooling experiments, and storage requirements	19	Section 3.1		
Current and proposed use of SNM by TA-18 operations, and its availability	9	Section 3.1.2		
TA-18 decontamination and decommissioning, closure, and post-closure plans	5	Section 3.2.1 and Section 5.7		
Transportation requirements associated with the proposed action and alternatives	4	Section 3.1.2, Chapter 5, and Appendix D		
Unclassified description of the bounding amount of SNM proposed for transport to each candidate location, the manner and route of transport, the containers and casks that would be used to transport this material, necessary safeguards and security measures to protect shipments, and potential accidents associated with this transport	19	Section 3.1.2 and Appendix D		
Radionuclide and chemical emissions resulting from the proposed action	7	Section 3.2.1		
Time frame for TA-18 operations for all alternatives	3	Section 3.2.1		
Potential employment impacts to the TA-18 workforce resulting from the proposed relocation	6	Section 3.2.1 and Chapter 5		
Siting criteria used to determine the reasonable site alternatives for the TA-18 operations	3	Section 3.2.2		
Description of TA-18 facilities and critical assembly machines, and the specific requirements associated with the alternative proposals for carrying out the TA-18 operations at the alternative sites, including the purpose and design of each facility, timeline and major schedule milestones, any necessary construction, software and security systems to be used, and any systems that would be used to prevent emissions to the environment	36	Section 3.2.1, Section 3.3 and Appendix A		
The alternative of discontinuing TA-18 operations	2	Section 3.4.1		
Sites that were considered but eliminated from detailed study	6	Section 3.4.2		
Environmental, safety, and health impacts of relocating/conducting TA-18 activities over the lifetime of operations at each proposed location	18	Section 3.5 and Chapter 5		
DOE's Preferred Alternative	2	Section 3.6		
Existing affected environments at each alternative site, including current storage of transuranic materials, as well as releases of radiation from TA-18 normal operations and their effect on workers and the general population	6	Chapter 4		
Changes to the affected environment as a result of the Cerro Grande Fire	2	Chapter 4		
Accident history of the existing TA-18 facilities and of each alternative relocation site	7	Chapter 4		
Seismic and floodplain issues relative to TA-18 operations	3	Chapter 4 and 5		
Waste types and volumes that would be generated as a result of the proposed action and alternatives, and how these wastes would be transported/managed at each proposed location	33	Section 3.2.1 and Chapter 5		
Environmental justice	1	Chapters 4 and 5 and Appendix E		
Potential routes for air, water, and soil contamination from proposed facility operation	1	Chapter 5		

Issues	Number of Comments	EIS References
Applicable laws and regulations associated with the proposed action and alternatives	13	Chapter 6
Consultation with Native American representatives	5	Chapter 6
Reasonable spectrum of accidents (including criticality accidents) associated with the TA-18 proposal	13	Appendix C
Safety measures to prevent criticality accidents	4	Appendix A
Description of recent independent safety evaluations, and other issues associated with safety at TA-18	6	Appendix C
Software and computer codes used in performing the accident analyses in this <i>TA-18 Relocation EIS</i> .	4	Appendix C
Impact assessment methodology	1	Appendices B, C, D, E, and F
Summary of public scoping comments on the proposed action and alternatives	1	Appendix I

Table I-2 Issues Added to the Scope of the TA-18 Relocation EIS

Issues	Number of Comments	EIS References
Consideration of the alternative to upgrade existing TA-18 facilities and clarification of the specific requirements for such an alternative	1	Section 3.3